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AUG 31 2000

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In re Application of :  
HERRMAN et al :  
Application No.: 09/530,415 :  
PCT No.: PCT/EP98/06274 :  
Int. Filing Date: 22 October 1998 : COMMUNICATION  
Priority Date: 31 October 1997 :  
Attorney's Docket No.: 306.38504X00 :  
For: ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE COVERING :  
PAINT :

The above-identified application is before the PCT Legal Office for consideration of issues arising under 35 U.S.C. 371.

### BACKGROUND

On 06 April 2000, national stage papers for the above identified international application number were filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and assigned U.S. application number 09/529,070. The papers appoint counsel from another law firm.

On 01 May 2000, applicant filed national stage papers including, *inter alia*, a transmittal letter identifying the above-captioned international application.

### DISCUSSION

The end result for an international application designating the United States of America is a **single** U.S. national stage application. Therefore, the submission of two sets of national stage papers to enter the United States was improper.

It is noted that the transmittal letter for the present application indicates a title, international filing date, and applicant data that differs from the information appearing in the published international application for PCT/EP98/06274, thus suggesting that the international

application number indicated in the transmittal letter filed in the present application may be in error.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, applicant is required to provide, within ONE MONTH from the date of mailing of this communication, a proper reply to this communication. A proper reply would be either: 1) confirmation that the national stage papers filed 01 May 2000 in the present application are for PCT/EP98/06274, in which case the application papers will be merged into US application no. 09/529,070, or 2) a petition under 37 CFR 1.182, with appropriate petition fee, to correct the international application number indicated on the transmittal letter.

Failure to file the proper reply will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the present application. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are available.

Any further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231, with the contents of this letter marked to the attention of the PCT Legal Office.



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